

COUNTRY

Rumania

REPORT NO.

25X1A

TOPIC 1. Soviet Troops in Arad

2. Border Area near Periam

EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT prior to July 1951

DATE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE PREPARED 4 December 1951

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Arad.

1. Prior to July 1951, Soviet tank units equipped predominantly with T-34 tanks were almost daily seen moving south from the direction of the Alte Festung (old fortress), Arad (R 16/U 16), and, later, returning covered with dust and grime. The units had at the most, 25 tanks with them. They sometimes left at night. Although most of the units in town were tank units, other units, including a motorized artillery unit which was equipped with artillery pieces of a medium caliber towed by trucks, and units mounting trucks which towed mortars on rubber-tired trailers or AT guns with long thin barrels were also observed. The soldiers were armed with rifles and submachine guns. No infantry troops were seen. (1)

2. [redacted] a Soviet headquarters was housed in a five-story corner house opposite the town hall in the center of the city. Numerous Soviet officers and EM were seen entering and leaving the building in front of which [redacted] lively vehicular traffic and parked sedans.

3. A nearly completely destroyed barracks installation south of the railroad station had not been rebuilt by June 1951.

4. Except for militia personnel on police duty who wore blue-gray uniforms with various colored badges on their caps, no Rumanian units were seen in the city and its environment. Patrol duty in the border zone and on the trains was performed by militia personnel with green badges on their caps. The militia personnel wore white uniforms in the summer.

Periam Border Area.

5. [redacted] the border area along the Yugoslav border was divided into three border zones. Specifically, Zone I extended about 30 km to the east from the border, its rear boundary passing through Periam (R 16/T 74); the rear boundary of Zone II passed through Zadarlac (R 16/U 05). Arad was located in Zone III the rear boundary of which could not be determined. Border fortifications, road blocks, concentration of troops, etc. were not observed. [redacted] Division and the ensuring of the area along the Rumanian-Hungarian border.

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6. A wooden road bridge was under construction on the southern bank of the Muresul River near Periam Port, about 3 km northeast of Periam. Several hundred Soviet soldiers, allegedly engineer troops, have been engaged in construction work since the spring of 1951. A freight station along the Arad-Periam railroad line had been built after World War II. According to rumors, at least 1,000 Soviet troops wearing red service color were quartered in Periam.
7. In February 1951, ten to 12 large wooden temporary barracks buildings were in a field in Chisoda, just south of Timisoara (R 16/T 91). A drill field was located near the village.
8. [REDACTED]
9. On 23 June, a train of 40 to 50 cars carrying Rumanian troops and numerous tanks with long barrels and muzzle brakes passed through the Sampetrul Mare (Y 7/T 64) railroad station. The soldiers stated that they came from Valcani (Y 7/T 34) and were headed for Timisoara. No Soviet soldiers were on the train.
10. By the end of July, the locations south of the Muresul River as far as the Periam-Satchinez (R 16/T 83) - Hodoni (R 16/T 83) - Liebling (R 16/Z 09) - Voiteg (Y 18/Y 98) line were vacated by the population. The evacuees were said to have moved to the area south of Galati (R 55/Z 25), west of the Danube River.
11. Travellers stated that a second track was under construction from Timisoara to Arad. In July, the track was completed as far as Vinga (R 16/U 04). (4)

Comments.

- (1) Soviet troops were previously reported to have been stationed in Arad. [REDACTED] a tank [REDACTED] was carried in Arad. [REDACTED] The present report confirms this hypothesis. The number and type of tanks are indicative of a medium tank regiment. Since [REDACTED] two further such tank regiments and a heavy tank SP gun regiment can be carried in Timisoara, it appears rather definite that a Soviet tank division is stationed in the Banat.
- (2) [REDACTED] previously reported four lines fortified with trenches and bunkers to have run along the Yugoslav border. [REDACTED]
- (3) According to previous reports, the temporary barracks buildings in Buzias were under construction in April 1951.
- (4) According to available information, the Timisoara-Arad railroad line was a single-track line. Thus, the information [REDACTED] to the construction of a complete second track on that line.

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By: [REDACTED]

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